

# GOVERNOR DANIELS PROCLAIMS CORRECTIONAL EMPLOYEE WEEK: MAY 1st - MAY 7th

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INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA: Governor Mitch Daniels has proclaimed May 1-7, 2005, as Correctional Employee Week in Indiana to pay tribute to the men and women who staff the federal, state and county correctional facilities across the state.

The Governor's proclamation recognizes that “correctional employees are essential to the success of our judicial system, and to the health, safety, and general welfare of law abiding citizens of the State of Indiana.” Governor Daniels also recognizes that no group of Indiana’s public servants have a more difficult or less publicly visible job than the brave women and men who work in our correctional facilities, and parole and probation offices.

Daniels said corrections employees don’t always get the recognition they deserve. “Correctional employees are a vital partner in the public-safety picture. We should take the time to recognize our corrections employees, whose job is much more dangerous and complex than the average person.

Commissioner of Corrections, J. David Donahue joins the Governor in commending all correctional employees for their work. "They have a challenging job every day, yet they do it with fairness, civility and justice. I'm extremely proud of the work the staff does. The mission of the Indiana Department of Correction is to maintain public safety and provide offenders with self improvement programs, job skills and family values in an efficient and cost-effective manner for a successful return to the community as law-abiding citizens," Donahue said.

"My staff performs their duties twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week, 365-days a year with tremendous dedication under very difficult conditions with little recognition for their great work," added Donahue.

Employees at the Indiana Department of Correction are responsible for the supervision, custody and care for over 23,000 adult offenders and more than 1,000 juveniles, in 33 facilities, ranging from minimum to maximum custody, prison camps, juvenile facilities and work release centers.

According to Daniels, research has shown that education, work release and alcohol and other drug programs can reduce recidivism.

“Programs dealing with substance abuse, education and vocations have been successfully implemented at the Department of Correction. I am excited to see Commissioner Donahue take a lead on launching the first national meth treatment unit, faith-based programs, with the first juvenile program nationwide, and a new approach to re-entry. All of these programs are a result of a progressive leadership style and I am going to monitor the efforts of these implementations. The people behind the successful reentry are Corrections employees and I am really proud of each and everyone of you,” Daniels said.